

House Resolution 90

By: Representatives Holmes of the 61st, Brooks of the 63rd, Johnson of the 75th, Williams of the 89th, Stanley-Turner of the 53rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to amend Title XXI of the Social Security Act to
2 remove exclusions which prohibit enrollment of children of public employees in the
3 PeachCare for Kids Program created under Code Section 49-5-273 of the O.C.G.A.; and for
4 other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, as part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, the Congress of the United States
6 created Title XXI of the Social Security Act, the State Children's Health Insurance Program
7 (SCHIP), to address the growing problem of children without health insurance; and

8 WHEREAS, SCHIP was designed as a federal/state partnership, similar to Medicaid, with the
9 goal of expanding health insurance to children whose families earn too much money to be
10 eligible for Medicaid, but not enough money to purchase private insurance; and

11 WHEREAS, under the auspices of the federal legislation creating SCHIP, the Georgia General
12 Assembly enacted the PeachCare for Kids Program under Code Section 49-5-273 of the
13 O.C.G.A.

14 WHEREAS, paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of 42 U.S.C. Section 1397jj of Title XXI of the
15 Social Security Act expressly prohibits children who are members of a family eligible for
16 health benefits coverage under a state health benefit plan on the basis of a family member's
17 employment with a public agency in the state from enrolling in the PeachCare for Kids
18 Program; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2004, the median salary for all full-time state employees was \$28,543.00,
20 which was \$1,500.00 less per year than the 2002 median salary of \$30,000.00 among all
21 private sector full-time workers in Georgia, indicating the disparity between private sector and
22 state employees; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2004, 10 percent of state employees earned less than \$18,875.00 annually, and,
2 as a result, the \$180.28 monthly employee premium contribution for family coverage under
3 the most popular enrollment option of the State Health Benefit Plan in 2004 cost almost 10
4 percent of their annual salary; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2004, over 3,000 state employees lived in families with incomes below 133
6 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, and their minor children may have been eligible to enroll
7 in the Medicaid program; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2004, approximately 12,000 state employees had family incomes between 133
9 and 235 percent of the Federal Poverty Level and, based upon income, their minor children
10 would have qualified for enrollment in the PeachCare for Kids Program had the parent worked
11 for an employer other than the state; and

12 WHEREAS, low and moderate income workers represent almost 19 percent of the state work
13 force; and

14 WHEREAS, an estimated 3,200 children of state employees would gain medical coverage if
15 state employees were eligible for the PeachCare for Kids Program; and

16 WHEREAS, the federal prohibition preventing children of low wage-earning state employees
17 from enrolling in the PeachCare for Kids Program results in too many children of state
18 employees being uninsured because their parents earn too much income to be financially
19 eligible for Medicaid and too little income to be able to afford family coverage under the State
20 Health Benefit Plan; and

21 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that these federal restrictions be amended
22 appropriately.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the
24 United States Congress is urged to take all necessary steps to amend Title XXI of the Social
25 Security Act to remove exclusions which prohibit the enrollment of children of public
26 employees in the PeachCare for Kids Program under Code Section 49-5-273 of the O.C.G.A..

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and
28 directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to each member of the Georgia
29 Congressional delegation.